

AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR

1659

The German Peace terms were such as only a complete German victory could wring out of defeated Allies. Bluntly, they amounted to a *Germany* demand for German suzerainty over a *'Slus'* peace dismantled and defenceless Belgium ; annexation of the iron mines of French Lorraine ; parts of Russia and all Poland to be incorporated in the German Empire ; and an indemnity from France to cover " financial losses." In addition to that, the Allies were to cover all German commercial losses through the War ; there was to be a return of all the captured German colonies, and cession of further colonial territory by ourselves and our Allies ; and similar restitutions, concessions and indemnities to Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria. It was the detailed and explicit interpretation of the arrogant note in the German Peace Despatch.

The President's course now was clear. The Allied terms approximated to his Fourteen Points. The *Wilson* German conditions traversed his principles *compelled to* at every section. And these conditions

break with • were accompanied by a threat to sink his *Germany* ship at sight j^ only choice was

between a break with Germany and abject surrender.

In view of the statements he had made to Germany in his ultimatum after the *Sussex* incident, their blunt repudiation of the undertaking then given, and their declaration of ruthless and indiscriminate submarine warfare, there was no option but

to sever
diplomatic relations.

Accordingly, on 3rd February, 1917,
President
Wilson appeared before Congress, and
after recapitu-
lating the recent course of negotiations,
announced :—

" I have therefore directed the
Secretary of